

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 14-16 with the following:

A1

--European Patent Publication No. EP 0744 705A2 discloses an image detection system that stores templates of image portions and compares those templates against regions of the image a at various rotations.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 28-34 with the following:

A2

--Referring to Fig. 2 there is shown a block diagram representing an overview of the steps processed in accordance with the embodiments of the present invention. An image incorporating thereupon predetermined marking is input, for instance via a digital image scanning device, to a preprocessing step 20. The input image is typically received at the preprocessing step 20 as RGB colour channel information 21 on a pixel-by-pixel basis where the input image is down-sampled and colour encoded. Down-sampling is a process whereby the resolution of an image is reduced to a predetermined level.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 6-11 with the following:

A3

--Referring to Fig. 10, there is shown a signature detect mask 1000 comprising 32x32 matrix cells 1001 ~~1011~~ which is used by the pattern matching step 24 for determining an outer ring signature for an arrangement (or pattern) of mark element centres. In addition Fig. 10 shows a circular region 1002 divided into 36 ten degree sectors labelled 0 to 35. The signature detect mask 1000 represents a 32x32 pixel region of the sharpened, down-sampled bitmap resulting from the mark element detection step 22.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 30-35 with the following:

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--A 3-bit counter 1708 and encoder 1709 ~~1708~~ count valid lines from the start of the image and turns on the line enables *l\_valid* 1710 signal, one at a time as each valid line is received from the bitmap image resulting from the pixel processor module 50. At the end of the bitmap image it turns them of again. This ensures that no elements can be detected outside the image area and that the sharpening filter is correctly applied at the image boundaries.--

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